

County Snapshot

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Stanislaus County lies in the northern San Joaquin Valley. The county is bordered by San Joaquin County on the north, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties on the east, Merced County on the south, and Santa Clara County to the west.

With a projected population of 709,000 by the year 2020, Stanislaus County is one of the fastest growing counties in California. The county population will increase by more than 54 percent over the next 20 years.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for the county to be 203,000 with an unemployment rate of 10.6 percent. This is significantly higher than the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent.

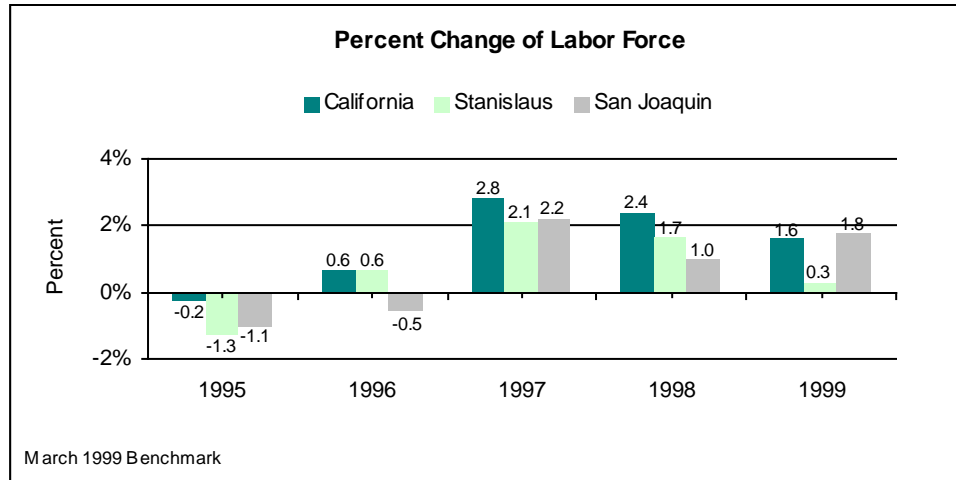
Services is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 23.2 percent of total employment. Trade is another significant industry, with the retail trade sector providing 18.1 percent of employment.

Services is also the fastest growing industry sector with a seven year projected growth rate of 22.1 percent. Business services is expected to account for 35 percent of these jobs. Manufacturing shows a projected growth of 16.1 percent and retail trade shows a projected growth of 15.0 percent.

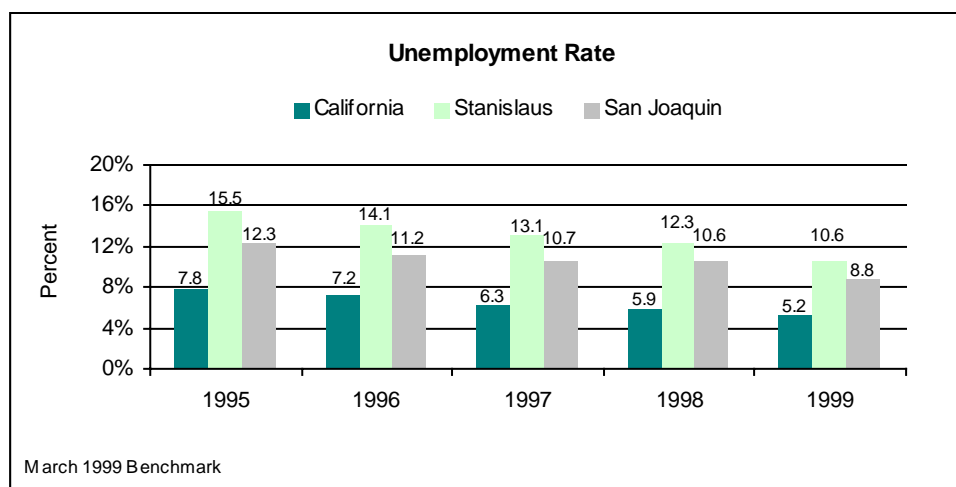
Labor market conditions in Stanislaus County, also known as the Modesto Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), has been steadily improving over the last five years and the county continues to record job growth and progressively lower unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

Stanislaus County's civilian labor force rebounded in 1997 with 2.1 percent growth mirroring neighboring San Joaquin County's growth of 2.2 percent. The state recorded an increase in labor force of 2.8 percent in 1997.

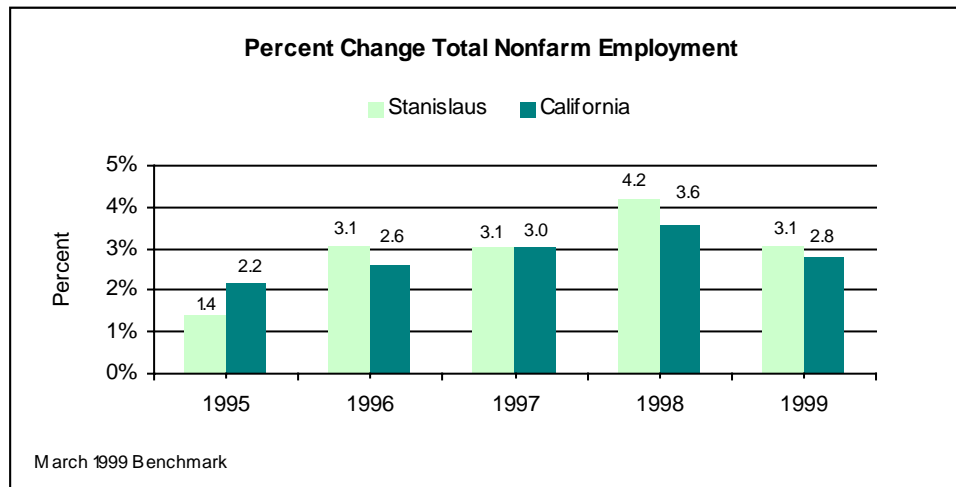


While steadily declining since 1995, unemployment rates for Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties have consistently exceeded the unemployment rate for the state. For Stanislaus County, the annual average unemployment rate dropped 4.9 percentage points from a high of 15.5 percent in 1995 to 10.6 percent in 1999.

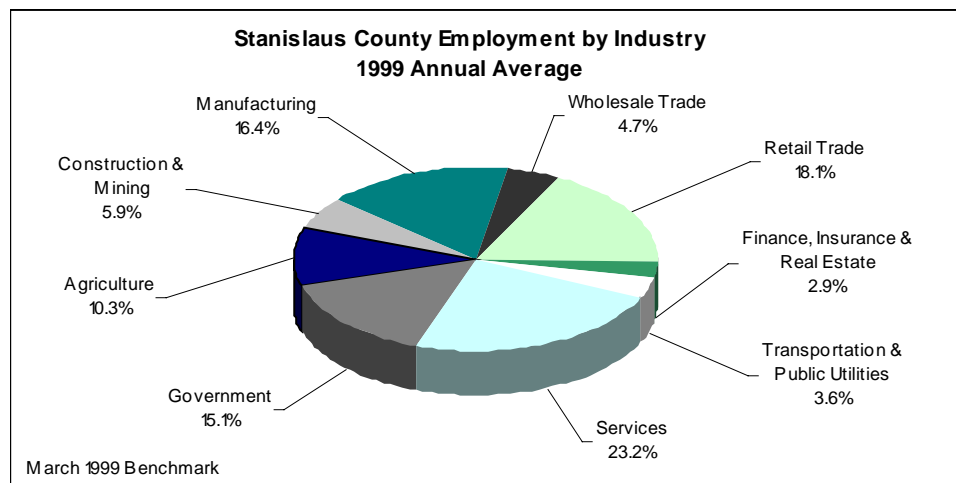


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Stanislaus County nonagricultural wage and salary employment has shown consistent growth since 1995. Payroll employment grew by 17,400 jobs or 12.3 percent. Services accounted for the greatest growth with a 7,700 increase over this period. From 1995 to 1999, business services doubled employment adding 3,400 jobs.



In 1999, Stanislaus County's employment was dominated by jobs in services, retail trade, and manufacturing. During the projection period of 1997 – 2004, it is expected that 75 percent of the future job growth in the county will be in the same three industries.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Stanislaus County is projected to have many employment opportunities in these high turnover occupations.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 22.1%
	Registered Nurses – 320 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.84
	General Office Clerks – 270 job openings. Performs a wide variety of tasks. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with the office procedures of the individual establishments and may include a combination of bookkeeping, typing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.89
	File Clerks – 240 job openings. File correspondence, cards, invoices, receipts, and other records in alphabetical or numerical order or according to the filing system used. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.19
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager, Clerical ADM SUP – 210 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of clerical and administrative support workers. Managers / Supervisors are generally found in smaller establishments where they perform both supervisory and management functions. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.71
	Guards and Watch Guards – 210 job openings. Stand guard at entrance gates or walk about premises of businesses, industrial establishments, or private residences to prevent theft, violence or infractions of rules. Direct patrons or employees, control traffic. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.52
Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 16.1%
	Misc. Helpers, Laborers – Hand, NEC – 360 job openings. Perform a broad array of helper and laborer jobs that require little training; assist more skilled production, construction, operating and maintenance workers with routine, physical work under close supervision. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.63
	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders – 180 job openings. Operate or tend machines such as filling machines, casing running machines, ham rolling machines, preservative filling machines, baling machines, wrapping and stuffing machines to prepare industrial or consumer products as end products or for storage and shipment. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.04
	Cooking Machine Operators And Tenders, Food And Tobacco – 170 job openings. Operate or tend cooking equipment, such as steam cooking vats, deep fry cookers, pressure cookers, kettles, and boilers, to prepare food products, such as meats, sugar, cheese, and grain. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.01
	Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 170 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.16
	Machinery Maintenance Mechanics – 150 job openings. Repair and maintain the operating condition of production and processing machinery. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$18.64
Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 15.0%
	Salespersons, Retail – 860 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.56
	Cashiers – 610 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.71
	Combined Food Preparation and Service Workers – 530 job openings. Do both food preparation and food service. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.96
	Food Preparation Workers – 360 job openings. Perform a variety of food preparation duties, such as preparing cold foods and maintaining and cleaning kitchen work areas, equipment, and utensils. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.15
	Waiters and Waitresses – 240 job openings. Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.01

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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